

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 SCCT-01 FBO-02 A-01 ABF-01

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2763

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5791

DEPARTMENT FOR A/SY/FO, PASS TO USAID DIRECTOR OF SECURITY

PANAMA FOR RSS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF USAID COUNTER-TERRORIST NEEDS

REF: STATE 158470

1. ROCAP BLDG. HAS VERY EXPOSED RECEPTION AREA OFFERING NO SECURITY EITHER FROM TERRORISTS OR RANDOM ASSAULT BY DERANGED INDIVIDUAL. SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS COULD ENTER THE LOBBY AREA, PRODUCE THEIR WEAPONS, OVERPOWER ONE GUARD ON DUTY, NEUTRALIZE THE SWITCHBOARD SECTION TO DESTROY COMMUNICATIONS, AND CAPTURE OR KILL MOST PERSONNEL WITHIN BLDG. BEFORE GENERAL ALARM COULD BE SOUNDED. BLDG. FRONT ENTRANCE OFFERS NO DEFENSE AGAINST FORCEFUL MOB ATTACK. PRESENT LOCATION OF RECEPTIONIST/ TELEPHONE OPERATOR DOES NOT PERMIT EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF VISITORS IF MORE THAN SEVERAL ENTER. USAID/ROCAP PERSONNEL IN GROUND FLOOR OFFICES VERY EXPOSED TO MACHINE GUN OR OTHER SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM PASSING VEHICLE DUE TO UNPROTECTED GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS. THIS TYPE ATTACK MOST COMMONLY USED IN GUATEMALA AND WAS TYPE USED AGAINST CHANCERY IN JUNE 1975. ROCAP DIRECTOR CAR AND OFFICIAL CARS CONTAIN NO MOBILE RADIOS.

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2. TO CORRECT THES VULNERABLE AREAS, FOLLOWING IS RECOMMENDED:

- A. INSTALL INTERNAL METAL GRILL DOORS AT MAIN ENTRANCE OF BLDG. TO STOP FORCEFUL ENTRY. ESTIMATE COST: DOLLARS 1,000.
- B. RECONFIGURE MAIN LOBBY AREA FOR BETTER ACCESS CONTROL AND TO DETER/DISCOURAGE TERRORIST ATTACK. ESTIMATED COST: DOLLARS 500.
- C. INSTALL PHYSICAL BARRIER SEPARATING BASEMENT GARAGE FROM REMAINDER OF BLDG. TO DETER/DISCOURAGE TERRORIST ATTACK FROM EXPOSED GARAGE ENTRANCE. ESTIMATED COST: DOLLARS 5,000.
- D. INSTALL 1-1/4-INCH LEXGARD ON THE BOTTOM 2/3 OF ALL GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS. ESTIMATED COST: DOLLARS 23,000.
- E. INSTALL MOVEABLE GRILL DOORS ON 1ST AND 3RD FLOOR STAIRWAY LANDINGS TO DETER/DISCOURAGE TERRORIST ATTACK. ESTIMATED COST: DOLLARS 1,000.
- F. INSTALL BASIC ALARM SYSTEM WITHIN BUILDING FOR USE IN SOUNDING GENERAL ALARM AND ALERTING SECURITY REACTION FORCES. ESTIMATED COST: DOLLARS 500.
- G. INSTALL MOBILE RADIOS IN APPROPRIATE VEHICLES. ESTIMATED COST: DOLLARS \$10,000.

3. ROCAP BLDG. IS LONG-TERM (10 YRS. - 5 YR. LEASE AND 5 YR. OPTION). POST REQUESTS FUNDING FOR MEASURES A-G TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND RELATED HOSTILE ACTS IN PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AND READILY ACCESSIBLE OFFICES. SEPARATE TELEGRAM WILL BE SENT TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFO REQUESTED IN AFTEL.
ANDREWS

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